



AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MEMORANDUM

February 15, 2019

TO: Agricultural Advisory Committee Members (AAC)

FROM: Jeremy V. Criss, Director
Office of Agriculture

SUBJECT: February 19, 2019 Meeting of the Agricultural Advisory Committee

The Agricultural Advisory Committee will meet on Tuesday **February 19, 2019 at 7:00 pm.**

We will be meeting at the Up County Regional Services Center 12900 Middlebrook Road Germantown MD 20874 Room A.

The agenda is on the next page.

The draft minutes from the January 15, 2019 AAC meeting will be available prior to our meeting.

The other attachments for our meeting will be posted on the Office of Agriculture web site.

<http://montgomerycountymd.gov/AgServices/agboardscommittee.html>

I hope to see you on Tuesday.

*Sign language interpreter services will be provided only upon request with notice as far in advance as possible but no less than 72 hours prior to the event. If you need other services or Aids to participate in this activity, please call 301-590-2810.



Agricultural Advisory Committee Meeting
February 19, 2019 Agenda

1. Call the Meeting to Order and Introductions:
2. Approval of the AAC meeting minutes from January 15, 2019.
3. The MCFB Michele Cropp, Lonnie Luther, Todd Greenstone, Linda Lewis and Johnny Jamison met with the County Executive Marc Elrich on January 22, 2019. The OAG provided CE briefing documents to help with the meeting. The meeting lasted for over an hour and everyone was encouraged by the discussion. The group came away with the understanding that this County Executive will have a much better open-door policy to discuss a range of agricultural issues and needs of our County farmers.
4. The House Bill 20 was heard at the House Ways and Means Committee on January 17, 2019. The House Bill 20 from Delegate Eric Luedtke, which proposes to remove the State Section 13-305 that allows developers to avoid paying the Agricultural Transfer Taxes. Senator Craig Zucker has sponsored SB 344 as the cross-filed with HB20. The Senate Budget and Taxation committee hearing on SB 344 was February 13, 2019. Please see the attached testimony for Jeremy Criss and Michael Jamison.
5. Update ZTA 18-14 Farm Alcohol Production Facilities in the RE-1 and RE-2 Residential zones as an accessory use to farming. The ZTA requires that all types of farm alcohol production in these residential zones must be located a minimum of 25 acres and the property must not be in a planned sewer service category. The Public Hearing was January 15, 2019 and many agricultural groups forwarded letters of support to the County Council. The PHED Committee recommended approval with amendments and the Council approved ZTA 18-14 on February 12, 2019.
<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/COUNCIL/Resources/Files/zta/2018/ZTA%2018-14.pdf>
6. The Agricultural members of the Agritourism Study Advisory Committee-ASAC met back in December 2018 to prepare responses to recommendations from the consultant. The group forwarded their responses to the consultant's recommendations on January 4, 2019. The MNCPPC is compiling the responses from all members of the ASAC and negotiating with the consultant to come back again for another meeting of the ASAC to be scheduled sometime soon.
7. The Sugarland Broadband Pilot construction along Partnership Road is completed and service hook ups are underway. Comcast is waiving the installation costs to the residents including the long runs up their driveways for hooking up the service. Comcast is now working to schedule construction along the Sugarland Road. We have continued to make progress in obtaining signed easements from some of the holdouts along the pilot. Several residents have expressed interest to assist in replicating the success of the Sugarland Pilot into other areas of the Agricultural Reserve. There will be a ribbon cutting ceremony once the winter weather passes.
<https://montgomerycountymd.gov/cable/Sugarland/sugarland-comcast.html>

8. Bob Cissel, Director of Montgomery Agricultural Producers arranged for meetings with each member of the Montgomery County Council on February 6, 2019. Bob extended invitations to other agricultural groups including MCFB-Michele Cropp, MC Agricultural Center-Carl Hobbs, and the Office of Agriculture-Jeremy Criss.
9. The Linthicum family received the Governor's Agricultural Hall of Fame Award for this year and were honored on February 7, 2019 during the Taste of Maryland Dinner.
10. Update on the FY19 1.5% Savings Plan for the OAG totals \$14,583. The Savings Plan will negatively impact the number of matching grants the OAG will be able to provide through June 30, 2019 in addition to reducing our marketing outreach for farmers markets and the farm tour. Update on the FY20 Budget Reduction for the OAG totals \$38,888. The Budget Reduction was submitted on January 7, 2019 and the OAG met with the Director of OMB on January 29, 2019. The County is recommending the contract for Maryland Agricultural Education Foundation-MAEF and Montgomery County Public Schools-MCPS be reduced by \$38,000. This reduction will reduce the number of schools the Mobile Science Lab-Food Fiber and you can visit each year from 27 schools down to 13 schools.
11. The MNCPPC submitted letters to farmers that lease park land announcing a pesticide prohibition for using Glyphosate-Round Up as part of their farming operation. The OAG contacted the Director of Parks, Mike Riley requesting the specific authority that MNCPPC is using to enforce this pesticide prohibition. The MNCPPC responded that all farmers that received the letter should discard the instructions at this time. The OAG sent follow up letter to each of the farmers that received the MNCPPC letters and copied MNCPPC staff. Michele Grace from MNCPPC called to explain that Parks will not be sending another letter to the tenant farmers and business as usual for these farmers moving forward. On Wednesday the OAG sent out a second letter to the farmers that lease Park property explaining to them business as usual.
12. The Annual Farm Bureau Day in Annapolis was on Wednesday January 30, 2019 and Paula Linthicum did an excellent job of scheduling individual meetings between the MCFB representatives and members of the Montgomery County Delegation. We also attended the Governor Hogan's State of the State speech.
13. The Maryland DNR will be conducting public meetings to promote their 15-year Deer Management Plan and revised Regulations. The public meeting for Central MD is February 21, 2019 in Owings Mills. The DNR is recommending regulations that will negatively impact deer management in Montgomery County. Written comments to the MD-DNR are due by February 28, 2019. Please see the email message attached. <https://news.maryland.gov/dnr/2019/01/28/public-input-sought-on-white-tailed-deer-management/>
14. The National Agriculture Day is March 14, 2019. On Tuesday March 12, 2019, the County Council will be conducting a continental breakfast at 8:30 am for farmers to attend and then participate with a County Council Proclamation to celebrate National Agriculture Day. I encourage you to attend and let me know if you want to join us.

15. Update on the Appointments needed for the AAC. January 23, 2019 Deadline. Please see the attached chart of all the AAC members and the status of their appointments.
16. Next meeting of the Agricultural Advisory Committee-March 19, 2019 at the Up-County Regional Services Center-12900 Middlebrook Road Germantown, MD 20874 Room A.

Upcoming Meetings and Events:

Ag Advisory Committee-February 19, 2019 @ 7:00pm-Up County Regional Center
UM-Extension New and Beginning Farmer trainings on Wednesdays-January-April 3, 2019
MAP and other agricultural groups meetings with Council members February 6, 2019
Taste of Maryland Dinner-February 7, 2019
USGS-Food is Opportunity Forum-February 12, 2019
DNR Public meetings on Hunting Regulations and Deer Management Plan-February 21, 2019
Table Food Producers Forum-February 25, 2019 10:00am AHFP
UM-Extension-Winter Agronomy Update-February 27, 2019
Montgomery County Farm Bureau Board of Directors-March 5, 2019@ 7:00pm-AHFP
Montgomery Soil Conservation District Bd of Supervisors-March 8, 2019@ 9:00am
King Barn Dairy MOOsuem Advisory Board-March 9, 2019
Council Proclamation for National Agriculture Day-March 12, 2019 @ 9:00am
Ag Preservation Advisory Board-February 12, 2019 @7:00pm Up County Regional
Annual Montgomery Weed Control Board of Directors meeting-March 18, 2019